Chief Minister Paul Henderson today hosted a reception at Parliament House with members of the Stolen Generations to mark National Sorry Day.

“National Sorry Day was established as a recommendation of the Bringing Them Home report.”

“The report’s author, the late Sir Ronald Wilson was deeply affected by the personal stories of suffering he heard and felt that as a nation we needed to recognise and apologise for the hurt and pain the forced removals had caused and continue to cause.”

“National Sorry Day reminds us that many hundreds of Aboriginal families were, and still are, affected as a direct consequence of former Australian government policies.”

“Today is a day for all Australians to acknowledge a significant part of our shared Australian history.”

“We also take this opportunity to remember vital contribution to the movement that took place right here in Darwin in 1994.”

“A group of ex-residents, known by their institutional names got together and hosted the Going-Home Conference which brought together people from throughout Australia at Kormilda College.”

“The Northern Territory Government is proud of our Stolen Generation and their descendents. We know how important it is to work together to resolve complex and outstanding issues.”

“That’s why in 2001 our Government apologised in the Northern Territory Parliament to Territorians who were removed from their families.

“National Sorry Day serves to remind all of us – be it individuals or governments – that we must continue to reflect and acknowledge the wrongs of the past and importantly, that we move forward.”

National Sorry Day has been an annual event since 1998 in commemoration of the Bringing Them Home report to the Federal Government.

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